AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (currently amended).   A method of inhibiting or reducing the proliferation of prostate cancer cells that express a sPLA$_2$-IIA polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 in a human subject ~~in need thereof~~ who has been subjected to androgen ablation therapy, the method comprising administering to the ~~cells~~ subject a selective inhibitor of the enzyme activity of ~~an sPLA$_2$-IIA~~ the polypeptide ~~having a sequence as defined in SEQ ID NO: 3~~, wherein the inhibitor inhibits the ability of the polypeptide to catalyse the hydrolysis of membrane phospholipids at the sn-2 position to release fatty acids and lysophospholipids, wherein the inhibitor inhibits the sPLA$_2$-IIA-mediated proliferation of prostate cancer cells, and wherein the inhibitor is a cyclic peptide of the following formula:

A1-A2-A3-A4-A5, in which

A1 is F or Y or W or 2Nap

A2 is L or I

A3 is S or T

A4 is F or Y or W or 2Nap, and

A5 is R or K.

2 (canceled).

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3 (previously presented). A method according to claim 1 wherein the prostate cancer cells are androgen independent prostate cancer (AIPC) cells.

4 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 1, wherein the PLA_2 inhibitor is a $cPLA_2$-α inhibitor.

5-9 (canceled).

10 (previously presented). A method according to claim 1, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of cFLSYK (SEQ ID NO:5), cFLSYR (SEQ ID NO:6) and c(2NapA)LS(2NapA)R.

11 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 1, wherein a $cPLA_2$-α inhibitor is administered in conjunction with an $sPLA_2$-IIA inhibitor.

12. (withdrawn). A method for detecting prostate cancer or a metastases thereof in a subject, said method comprising:

determining the level of PLA_2 mRNA expressed in a test sample from said subject; and

comparing the level of PLA_2 mRNA determined at (i) to the level of PLA_2.mRNA expressed in a comparable sample from a healthy or normal individual,

wherein a level of PLA$_2$ mRNA at (i) that is enhanced in the test sample relative to the comparable sample from the normal or healthy individual is indicative of the presence of a cancer cell in said subject.

13 (withdrawn). A method for detecting prostate cancer or a metastases thereof in a subject, said method comprising:

determining the level of a PLA$_2$ polypeptide in a test sample from said subject; and

comparing the level of PLA$_2$ polypeptide determined at (i) to the level of said PLA$_2$ polypeptide in a comparable sample from a healthy or normal individual,

wherein a level of said PLA$_2$ polypeptide at (i) that is enhanced in the test sample relative to the comparable sample from the normal or healthy individual is indicative of the presence of a cancer cell in said subject.

14 (withdrawn). A method of assessing the predisposition of a subject to prostate cancer, the method comprising the step of determining the presence of a polymorphism or an epigenetic change in a PLA$_2$ gene of the subject.

15 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 12 wherein the prostate cancer cells are androgen independent prostate cancer (AIPC) cells.

16 (withdrawn). A method according to claim 12, wherein the PLA$_2$ is cPLA$_2$-α.

17 (withdrawn).   A method according to claim 12, wherein the PLA_2 is

$sPLA_2$-IIA.

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